Summer Sermon Series

For the month of July, our pastors will preach on the topic of “This I Know for Sure.” Senior Pastor Kathi McShane started the series on July 9 with “Life Is Like a Wedding Banquet.” In August, the topic will turn to “God Is Still Speaking,” looking at several current forms of God’s speech.

July 16: This I Know for Sure: All Shall Be Well
Senior Pastor Kathi McShane will give a message based on Isaiah 43:1-7.

July 23: This I Know for Sure: Faith Is a Journey
Associate Pastor Jon Visitacion will give the message using the text of Romans 12:1-2.

July 30: This I Know for Sure: God Comes to You, Disguised as Your Life
Pastor Kathi will preach, using Matthew 4:18-19.

August 6: God Is Still Speaking … In the Words of Poets
Pastor Kathi will give the message. Holy Communion will be offered.

Introducing Pastors Kathi and Jon

Two new pastors started their appointments at Los Altos UMC on July 1: Senior Pastor Kathi McShane and Associate Pastor Jon Visitacion. Pastor Kathi preached for the first time at the July 9 worship services, and Pastor Jon will preach on July 23. Please read a little about each of them below, and look for continuing opportunities to get to know the newest members of our pastoral team.

Rev. Kathi McShane has spent the last three years serving as the senior pastor at Campbell United Methodist Church. She has been ordained for 19 years, serving about half of that time at Pacific School of Religion and the other half in local churches in Northern California. Before entering ordained ministry, Pastor Kathi was a lawyer and practiced for about 15 years.

Rev. Jon Visitacion has served Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose for the last four years, leading ministries related to young adults, technology, and congregational care. He has also served as a chaplain intern in Virginia and in youth ministries at a church in Torrance, Calif. His bachelor’s degree is in computer engineering. Pastor Jon was commissioned as a provisional elder at the June 2017 California-Nevada Annual Conference Session.

Pastor Kathi and Pastor Jon look forward to getting to know all of us and serving with us in our community.
My dear new friends and family—

I write this after one very full Sunday as your pastor. In my sermon I used the image of an arranged marriage to describe our new relationship, but at the moment I am feeling more like an adopted child—welcomed and wanted and a little surprised at how much love there is to go around.

You have overwhelmed me with your generosity and kindness. And I am very grateful:
— for your kindness and generosity of spirit.
— for your willingness to enter new pastoral relationships even as you weren’t quite ready to give up the old ones.
— for your hope and resilience and openness to wherever the Spirit will lead us.

Every new beginning is a chance to re-gather and see from a different perspective, to peel off another one of those sets of blinders that keep us from seeing that there is holiness all around us. This beginning is a moment of invitation for all of us: to let go of some things that are familiar but might also be a little constraining. To readjust our hopes; to look up and see that the horizon is further out there than we thought.

The commitment that Pastor Jon and Children’s Ministry Director Michelle and I have made to you as we begin our work at LAUMC, and that Pastors Dirk and Sam and Ministry Directors Carol and Patricia have reaffirmed, is to give to you the attention and time and energy of our vocation, the passion and purpose that each of us knows to be God’s calling in our lives. We do this as partners with one another, and we do it as partners with you.

Lay and clergy, staff and volunteer, worship leader and worshipper—all of us are part of the work of seeing and collaborating in God’s work of healing and mending the world. Each of us is called; each of us is needed.

One of the prayers I say often goes like this:

What we choose changes us.
Who we love transforms us.
How we live reshapes us.

So in all our choosing, O God, make us wise;
In all our loving, O Christ, make us bold;
In all our creating, O Spirit, give us courage;
In all our living may we become whole.

— from Night Vigil by Jan Richardson

That is my prayer for all of us at this moment.

I am so looking forward to knowing more about the ways you are living out your own calling. And I am very glad to be in ministry and life alongside of you.

With love and blessings,

Kathi
**Worship Schedule Alteration**

Summer is an out-of-the-ordinary time. A little breathing space to try new routes and routines. This summer we’d like to try to bring our congregation all together more regularly for worship. For five Sundays—August 6 to September 3—we will hold just two regular worship services on Sunday mornings, instead of three.

Worship at 8:00am or 9:30am, then stay for extended conversation and study of the day’s text with Pastor Kathi at 11:15am. Creekside Crossings will remain at its regular time of 5:00pm.

We hope that this will offer all of the morning worship-goers a chance to see and worship with folks they don’t usually get to see!

This is not a permanent change. At the end of this five-week “pilot project,” we’ll ask you what you thought about this arrangement, and we’ll figure out together what’s best for our church in the long term. Please share your questions or comments with us along the way. We’ll be glad to hear them!

With blessings and hope,
Rev. Kathi McShane, senior pastor
Rev. Dirk Damonte, minister of music and worship arts
Margie Gong, chair of Church Council
Jan Grace, interim chair of Passionate Worship Practice Committee

---

**Bold Service and Social Justice Update**

The Bold Service and Social Justice team is spreading the word about opportunities to directly address the affordable housing crisis in our local area. Habitat for Humanity—East Bay/Silicon Valley is embarking on an ambitious project to build 30 new homes. We are invited to help celebrate the start of Central Commons, the newest development in Fremont. These homes will transform a now-vacant lot into a beautiful, thriving neighborhood where families can find the stability and security they need for a better future. The groundbreaking ceremony is on Friday, July 14, at 10:00am and will be held at the site (4369 Central Avenue, Fremont). RSVP on the Habitat for Humanity website (www.habitatebsv.org/Events/Central-Commons-Groundbreaking). Then mark your calendar for Saturday, September 16, when Habitat will hold a Build-a-thon at the project site (www.habitatebsv.org/build-a-thon), and keep your eyes peeled for upcoming All-Faiths build days in the fall.

**Compassion Week: Save the Date and Consider Leading a Project**

Last year we surpassed our goal of 2,000 volunteers, and we hope to do the same this year, October 2–8. We will be going beyond our Sanctuary walls and into the world to serve. With more than 100 projects, everyone has an opportunity to serve, regardless of age or varied abilities. Consider blocking out an afternoon, a day, or the whole week to serve in our community. Project leaders are an important part of our service! If you are interested in leading a project or learning more about Compassion Week, contact Nadine Tadeo (compassionweek@laumc.org).

**Mexico House-Building Trip**

Plan ahead! The next trip will be April 7–14, 2018.

---

**Boomers & Beyond Update**

**Worship Schedule Alteration**

- **Worship at 8:00am or 9:30am, then stay for extended conversation and study of the day’s text with Pastor Kathi at 11:15am. Creekside Crossings will remain at its regular time of 5:00pm.**
- **We hope that this will offer all of the morning worship-goers a chance to see and worship with folks they don’t usually get to see!**
- **This is not a permanent change. At the end of this five-week “pilot project,” we’ll ask you what you thought about this arrangement, and we’ll figure out together what’s best for our church in the long term. Please share your questions or comments with us along the way. We’ll be glad to hear them!**

---

**Seeking Administrative Assistant for Children’s Ministries**

Los Altos UMC is seeking an administrative assistant to provide administrative support to the director of Children’s Ministries and assist with Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible School, other children’s programs, and special events. For a detailed job description, visit www.laumc.org/about/employment/. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to hr@laumc.org.

---

**Baptism**

Ethan Stowe Park & Grant Robert Park
June 11
Parents: Robert & Meredith Park

---

**July 14, 2017**

**GOOD NEWS!**

**Page 3**
Annual Conference Highlights

Current and former LAUMC members and pastors were in the spotlight at last month’s California-Nevada Annual Conference Session, the yearly gathering of pastors and lay people from United Methodist Churches across Northern California and Nevada. The session was held at the Burlingame Hyatt Regency. Here are just a few highlights:

LAUMC members Leslie Carmichael and Bob Lee were awarded a Bishop’s Award for their service in our local church and in the larger California-Nevada Conference. Read more in the article on page 6.

Rev. Sam Yun and Rev. Greg Bergquist, both former LAUMC pastors, were awarded the Bishop Warner Brown Leadership Award.

Former member Chelsea Temple Constant was ordained as an elder in full connection.

Former Senior Pastor Mark Bollwinkel officially retired from active ministry.

Visit the annual conference website (www.cnumc.org) to watch the recap video or check out other highlights of the week.

See Starfire Perform Borderless

Friday and Saturday, July 21–22, 7:30pm, Creekside

Starfire Singers, our high school choir, presents Borderless, an original musical about breaking down barriers and borders written by Dirk and Carol Damonte. Starfire has been hard at work preparing this musical to be performed at Los Altos UMC before taking off on a 2½-week tour to the United Kingdom! Admission is free, and an offering will be received for the Willka T’ika Children’s Fund – C’haskaNina Project (Quechua for “Starfire Project”), supporting trade education for Quechua high school graduates in remote Andean villages.

Borderless is a multimedia musical production about breaking through the barriers and borders that keep us from an authentic, deep, growing relationship with Jesus. Inspired by Bishop Robert Schnase’s book Five Practices of Fruitful Living, Borderless is a fresh perspective on the five practices of discipleship. Come confront the places where you feel stuck in life and find a path toward living in a real and growing relationship with God. Once we step out beyond the borders, we find hope, faith, and love beyond our wildest imaginations.

Some of the highlights of Starfire’s UK tour will be visiting and performing at sites where the Wesley brothers (founders of Methodism) lived and preached, “visiting” Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, performing at Coventry Cathedral after visiting the bombed out ruins of the former cathedral, writing on the peace wall in Belfast, going to the Titanic museum, World of Harry Potter, and Ghost Tours of York, walking down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, singing in the Chapter House at Salisbury Cathedral, and stepping back in time as we marvel at the mystery of Stonehenge. But the greatest highlights will be sharing a message with thirsty congregations, bridging the space between people and cultures, stepping into the “thin space” where God waits for us, and building friendships that move and breathe at a deeper level. Welcome to Borderless living!

The shows at Los Altos UMC and most overseas performances will be live streamed. Visit www.starfiresingers.com for more details.

Roof Improvements in the Works

Following on approvals received from the Board of Trustees, we will begin to see some changes to Creekside Center and the Garden Complex (Choir Room and Live Oak Room). On Wednesday, July 19, the facilities team will begin removing the old roofing material from Live Oak and the Choir Room and start prepping for reroofing of that building. The old roofing has been deteriorating for quite some time, and the tree damage to the roof on the Magdalena Avenue side has not yet been fully repaired. Work will be carried out during business hours and should not affect any evening events.

Along with the work on the Garden Complex, the facilities team will begin to rehabilitate the almost 30-year-old roof on Creekside Center beginning Monday, July 24. They will start with resurfacing the flat roofs, gutters, and eaves where most of the leaks are occurring. The process will last approximately three weeks, depending on conditions found once the roofing material is removed.

Director of Facilities Harold Caudle and his team are excited to make this finally happen and thank you in advance for your patience during this time of construction.
All-Church Summer BBQs Return

Thursdays, July 27 and August 10, 6:00–9:00pm, Creekside

Bring your family and friends to our All-Church Summer BBQs, scheduled for two Thursdays. Tickets are available online or at the door for $8/person and $5/child under 6 with a maximum of $22/family with school-age children. Don’t worry if you can’t come right at 6:00—dinner will still be available for late arrivals! There will also be entertainment for the whole family, including basketball, water balloons, games, prizes, and more.

On July 27, Dorita Strotman, a well-known pianist at local restaurants, will provide music during dinner. The Wesley Jazz Ensemble will perform after dinner—dancing and singing are encouraged! Water balloons and games will be organized for youth. If you’d like to purchase your ticket online, visit www.bit.ly/july27bbq. Child care is available for children 4 years old and younger with advance reservation to Pat Osborne by July 21.

On August 10, Dorita Strotman will once again provide piano music during dinner. Magician Phil Ackerly will perform, a delight for both children and adults, as he has entertained audiences off-Broadway in New York City and at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. Following his act, the Star Geezers will play for us. If you’d like to purchase your ticket online, visit www.bit.ly/aug10bbq. Child care is available for children 4 years old and younger with advance reservation to Pat Osborne by August 4.

We need your help to make this event a success! The planning team is still looking for assistants in the kitchen, at the grill, serving the meal, and cleaning up. Please contact Pat Osborne (650-948-7955 or paozborne@aol.com) with any questions, to volunteer, or to request child care.

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Bollwinkel Scholarship Recipients

For the 2017–2018 academic year, Claremont School of Theology has awarded the Rev. Dr. Mark S. Bollwinkel Scholarship to Arnold Johann (AJ) Francisco. AJ will be entering the third year of his Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) program this fall and will pursue elder’s orders. His calling is to serve the under-represented, ignored, and at-risk youth and young adults.

The first two Bollwinkel Scholarship awardees have completed their M.Div. degrees, both graduating this past May.

Mr. Scott Kimball will be completing a Clinical Pastoral Education Program (Chaplaincy Internship) at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles over the next year. In 2018 he will be seeking an appointment as a pastor at a local church as he continues in his United Methodist ordination process.

Mrs. Salamasina (Sina) Vuna is continuing her grassroots work and outreach to the poor and marginalized in the Bay Area. She is continuing as co-coordinator for mission and outreach to the homeless families with young children at Hillsdale United Methodist Church. Sina has begun a program to visit widows and shut-ins in the local community, praying with and offering them the sacraments monthly. She is completing her ordination papers and requirements to be ordained as a deacon with a calling to serve in outreach and mission ministry. Sina intends to participate in LAUMC’s Compassion Week.

Please continue to surround AJ, Scott, and Sina as they become agents of transformation and healing in our churches, local communities, and the world at large.

Book Club

Thursday, July 27
7:30pm, Garden Room

The Thursday Night Women’s Book Group will meet to discuss Sufficient Grace, by Darnell Arnoult. All women are welcome to participate. Contact Sandra Montoya (smsmontoya@gmail.com) with questions.
Leslie Carmichael & Bob Lee Receive Bishop's Award

At the 2017 California-Nevada Annual Conference Session, held June 21–24, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño awarded Los Altos UMC members Leslie Carmichael and Bob Lee with a 2017 Bishop’s Award. The Bishop’s Award is given annually to recipients who exhibit leadership and service in their local church, community, and larger denomination. An excerpt from the award presentation is below:

Leslie and Bob are beacons for the Christian call to love and live a compassionate life. Through their efforts with the broader church and the community, they serve with unselfish hearts as they use their many skills to seek justice as well as address immediate needs.

Perhaps their most impressive work is the formation of Hope’s Corner, a partnership that utilizes the vast resources of LAUMC and partners with a small local church, Trinity UMC in Mountain View, to feed the needy every Saturday morning. Leslie and Bob single-handedly have secured the food through local food banks and other organizations, set up cooking crews and the transporting of the food.

Without the hard work and dedication of Leslie and Bob, this much-needed program would not exist. They are currently finalizing a capital campaign to build a kitchen and remodel a dining area at Trinity to more efficiently serve the hungry.

Leslie and Bob have also organized and led more than 50 mission trips, working with UMCOR, UMVIM, and AMOR Ministries. They are also instrumental in organizing and executing LAUMC’s Compassion Week, which featured more than 2,000 volunteers supporting 150 local agencies with hands-on service. Their unequalled energy, devotion and dedication to supporting those in need are an inspiration for all of us lucky to know and work side by side with Leslie and Bob.

LAUMC is blessed to have such faithful disciples among us. Congratulations to Leslie Carmichael and Bob Lee!

Calling All Artists for Arts Alive! 2017

Sunday, August 27, 9:00am–1:30pm, Creekside

Artists are invited to get out your paintbrushes, clay, or other tools and create some new artwork to share with your church family! Arts Alive! Sunday is the day we celebrate God’s great gift of creativity in our lives and in our congregation. If you are an artist in any medium, of any age, please consider sharing your original creations.

To sign up, email Jan Grady (jangrady@aol.com) and include your name, phone number, email address, art medium (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.), and how many display panels you want or what length table you need. We have new Pro Panels to display our work on that are 30” wide and 6’ tall. Set-up time is the preceding day, Saturday, August 26, 10:00am–1:00pm in Creekside. There is a $10 participation fee payable at set-up; the fee is waived for artists ages 14 and under.

Please contact Lisa Webb (650-380-0939 or LLLazure@icloud.com) with questions.
Hello! My name is Michelle Caudle, and I am so honored to be the new director of Children’s Ministries. Being called to serve God in this position is so exciting because I grew up attending Sunday school and many other programs at LAUMC. I hope to meet the needs of the children and families at Los Altos United Methodist Church by creating a safe, loving environment where every child knows that they are loved by God and their community, and that they can develop the spiritual skills necessary to face the complexities of life.

I taught middle school history for three years and before that attended the University of Redlands for undergrad and Santa Clara University for grad school, where I also received a teaching credential. Most of my free time is devoted to my puppy, Wilson, but I also enjoy reading, listening to podcasts, and spending time with my family.

Michelle Caudle, director of Children’s Ministries, michellecaudle@laumc.org

**Family Fun Night!**
**Tuesdays, August 8 and 15, 6:00–8:00pm**
Families are invited to enjoy some summer fun together! Bring your dinner, a picnic blanket, and join us on the grassy area by the Youth Room and Resource Center. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience how welcoming our church family can be! This is a great way to meet and get to know other families in our community, as well as the new director of Children’s Ministries. Parents are responsible for supervising their children at all times during this event, and all items brought in must be taken home at the end of the evening.

**Vacation Bible School Update**
In June our amazing VBS kids enjoyed a week of singing, dancing, laughing, playing, and learning how we can all be superheroes for Jesus! The 4th through 6th graders had an awesome field trip to Pump It Up, and all our students wowed us by singing “Hero Central” at church on Sunday. Our VBS kids donated shower kits and supplies to our neighbors who use the facilities at Hope’s Corner at Trinity United Methodist Church. Many thanks go out to Erica Carlstrom, who organized VBS, and to all the amazing volunteers!

Children's Center News

There is nothing better than watching children celebrate the beginning of summer! On June 6 the Children’s Center staff transformed the church campus into a Fun Fair. If you happened to be on campus that day, you might have seen a strolling musician delighting children with his flute and guitar playing, a pocket-lady handing out candy and treats, and an amazing bubble performer who created the biggest and most colorful bubbles we have ever seen. The children also took part in a spin art booth, a fishing pole game, and musical chairs. To close out the festival, we had a big treat—old-fashioned ice cream sundaes!

Now that July is here, the Children’s Center staff is back in high gear as they prepare for our Summer Fun camps. Our summer programs are open to all children who have already attended the preschool. Each morning will be filled with arts and crafts and experiential opportunities both in and outside the classroom. The staff magically changes each room according to that week’s theme. Guest entertainment and special snacks are just some of the many fun surprises during the camps. This year we are excited to offer the following camp themes: Sensational Science, Drama-Rama, and Backyard Bonanza!
GroupLife Workshop and Fall Topics

Anyone is welcome to come to our semi-annual GroupLife Workshop on Saturday, August 19, 9:00am–12:00pm in Creekside A/B. We will hear from Rev. Kathi McShane, share stories from our groups, get a preview of the fall topic choices, and have a demo of how new church database software will help us track and manage our groups! Join us for breakfast and this fantastic agenda.

In early August, we will begin sign-ups for our fall topical small groups, all offered on the church campus: Science and Faith, Pity Is Not Compassion, The Chronicles of Narnia, Becoming Human, and Invitation to Romans. Sign up after worship August 6–20 or visit our website for details.